

Amendments To The Specification:

1. Please amend paragraph [0008] to read as follows:

The present invention includes a method of printing on an automobile part, comprising the steps of producing an automobile part, plating the automobile part with chrome, providing a stamp having indicia cut therein, providing ink, and applying the ink to the stamp and pressing the stamp onto the part. The preferred embodiment, of the method of the present invention, includes the step of agitating the ink immediately prior to applying the ink to the stamp and applying the stamp to the part. In the preferred embodiment, a mixture of 60% ~~(by volume)~~ epoxy inks (that is ink having a mixture including an epoxy formulation) and 40% ~~(by volume)~~ hardener is used. Further, in a preferred embodiment, the ink is applied using a rubber tipped applicator, subsequent to the completion of the printing process the item can be cured. A preferred method of curing an item printed in accordance with the teachings of the present invention, includes placing the item on a conveyor and feeding the conveyor through an annealing device which includes subjecting the printed item to a temperature between 250° and 260° Fahrenheit for between 2 and 3 minutes. In a preferred embodiment, the printed item is cured in a dryer, or other device, at a temperature of 258° Fahrenheit for 2.5 minutes. It is to be understood that variations of time and temperature in curing the printed items may be made without departing from the novel scope of the present invention. In a preferred embodiment of the present invention, an infrared lamp device is used to cure a pad-printed item. It will, however, be understood that different types of devices, ovens, blowers or other curing means can be used by persons having skill in the art, without departing from the novel scope of the present invention. In a further embodiment of the present invention, a chrome-plated part is first given

an acid bath, prior to stamping, so as to etch the part to allow better adhesion with stamping ink. The part is further wiped down with a residue free cloth and is then brought to the printing apparatus.

2. Please amend paragraph [0016] to read as follows:

Typically, in the past, pad printing 16 has been accomplished by the placement of ink onto a soft absorbent ink pad, a stamp, having an image or words cut into, typically, a rubber die, is pressed onto the pad causing ink to transfer to the rubber die of the stamp from the absorbent pad. The inked rubber die of the stamp is then pressed, or placed, onto the object to be printed and an image is transferred onto the object. Inks having a ratio of 90% (by volume) epoxy ink to 10% (by volume) hardener have been used in the past, but have produced poor results. It has been found that such processes do not produce printed images that are compatible with government or industry standards and requirements.

3. Please amend paragraph [0017] to read as follows:

In the present invention a source of ink 20 is provided such that ink 22 may be placed into the source and the source may be continually agitated so as to prevent suspended particulates in the ink from separating from the fluid of ink 22. In a preferred embodiment of the present invention ZK ink 22 is utilized due to properties that make it ideal for pad printing on objects. Ink 22, of the preferred embodiment, is mixed in the following ratio: 60% (by volume) epoxy ink formula to 40% (by volume) hardening substance. It is to be understood that other types and kinds of ink, paint or other marking products, having similar properties, may be used, by persons having skill in the art without departing from the novel scope of the present invention. Agitation of ink 22 may be accomplished by any method known in the art and practiced by persons having skill in the art without departing from the novel scope of the present invention. The use of ZK ink 22 and the agitation procedure of the present invention causes ink impressions that meet industry and government standards. Further, the manufacture

of ink 22 in batches of no more than 200 grams has been found to be key in providing a fresh adherent and durable ink.

4. Please amend paragraph [0020] to read as follows:

In a preferred embodiment of the pad printing process 42, a rubber tipped printer, of a type well known in the art, is equipped with the appropriate stamp, or die, and is pushed against a pad having agitated ink 22. The inked stamp, or die, is then placed against the surface of part 12 and is then withdrawn. The stamp or die is then pushed against the surface of part 12, a second time, to effect a second printing on the surface of part 12, giving a darker, clearer, more durable impression. The stamp or die can then be wiped clean prior to further use. In one embodiment, the stamp or die is inked, placed against part 12, wiped clean, then re-inked and placed again on part 12, giving a further enhancement to the printed impression.